

**From:** Willie Roberson [wjrobers@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Sunday, April 03, 2005 1:08 AM

**To:** restructure.sizestandards@sba.gov

**Subject:** RIN 3245-ZA02 My Opposition to Proposed Exception for Small Business Size Standards for VC Companies

Dear Small Business Administration,

I would like to express my concerns and provide reasoning behind my opposition to the proposed changes to the small business size regulations, titled, "Participation of Businesses Majority-Owned by Venture Capital (VC) Companies in the SBIR Program" in the SBA's December, 2004 Advanced Notice of proposed Rulemaking.

I am in the process of forming a small corporation in the State of Florida, leveraging my 30+ years of experience at IBM Corporation and other technology businesses. I have been taking courses at the SBDC at Florida Atlantic University over the past month, to assist in making decisions on the structuring and marketing of my small business. Shortly after my business is properly formed, I will pursue 8a certification.

The SBIR program is a very attractive option for pursuing research and development funding for some technology concepts and inventions I am developing. I contacted other small business

owners who have had experience with the SBIR program to learn more about the program. They made me aware of this proposed change to the size regulations.

If this size change is implemented, it will be very difficult for a newly formed small business to successfully compete against "shell" small businesses owned by large VCs and other large entities. If this size change is implemented, I may reconsider the pursuit of the SBIR program as a method for funding my innovative technologies. I believe other start-ups would be forced to reconsider based upon this same concern.

I hope that Congress will shift its focus from creating unnecessary, special exceptions for VCs to dilute the limited opportunities for small businesses, and instead focus it's energies upon creating incentives for Department of Defense and other organizations to facilitate transition and commercialization of SBIR-funded technologies.

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